

About July 1771

The Elected Legislature asked John Stark
(then a private citizen) to accept a commission as
Brigadier General of the New Hampshire militia.
Stark agreed only on condition that he would serve
only to the State of New Hampshire.

July 4, 1777

Very secretly in night of July 4, 1777
Colonel Bacon (from Burgoyne) and his German
troops, they started to fortify Sugar Hill (710 ft
above Ft. Mifflin) expecting to surprise
the Americans. They worked through the
night building a road up the west side
of the hill. Two twelve-pounders were
dragged to the foot of the hill where the
ascent was almost perpendicular. Lieut Travis,
the Engineer slung the Canon in rope

cradles & hoisted them by means of ropes
& pulleys fastened to trees on the upper ledges.
This almost incredible feat was accomplished
in total darkness and would have caught the
Americans like rats in a trap. However, on the
summit of the hill above the batteries some-
one lighted a fire. The whole works were lighted
up for the Americans to see. Gen. St. Clair took
flight when he saw those guns pointing
right down at his feet. He called his officers in
conference and the decision was made to retreat.

July 5, 1777

Retreat from Tecumseh

Gen St. Clair planned to retreat under cover of darkness. Orders were for the rear guard to explode the powder magazine, spike the guns & burn all supplies.

This time an American lighted a fire too soon & lit up the whole process of evacuation. The rear guard took fright and scrambled out leaving everything for the British. This capture of Crown Point & Tecumseh.

by the British, rather than discouraging the inhabitants
arouse intense Patriotism & put spurs to their efforts.
Gen. John Stark was now at Fort No 4 in Charlestown
in the Connecticut R. rounding up troops. Recruits
poured in, including many veterans of Bunker Hill
and supplies were gathered.

Gen. Schuyler, in command of northern division
of the Continental Army, gave instruction to Maj. Gen.
Benjamin Lincoln to take command of the whole

Aug 6, 1777

Gen. John Stark rode into Manchester Vermont at the head of his men. Gen. Levin had embled off to Bennington leaving orders for Stark to join Gen. Schuyler at Saratoga.

Gen John Stark's commission was to protect New Hampshire, thus he was there to protect Vermont & thus protect New Hampshire
the British infantry: Tories; Hessian

dragoons; and Indians All under Boone were headed south toward Bennington. The dragoons slogged along under the heavy underbrush, very much disquintled at the lack of Horses. Burgoyne had promised plenty of horses, but he was dismayed at the lack of habitation & these seemed to be loyal Patriots.

15 Aug 1777

Was a rainy day @ Bennington. Stork
kept his men & his powder dry.

On Aug 15, Lieutenant Col Heinrich Breyman
received orders from Burgoyne to
surprise Baum at Bennington.

Baum placed a gun at the bridge
spanning the Walloomsne River

Aug 16, 1777 Baum → Mon.

Dawned bright and clear at Bennington

At noon, the Americans moved to receive orders and Stark mounting a rail fence, and said "Now, my men, yonder are the Hessians; they were bought for 7 pounds 10 pence a man. Are you worth more?"

Prove it. To-night the American flag floats over yonder hill; a Molly Stark sleeps a widow." Colonel Nichols + 900 New Hampshire men was instructed to moving around Baum's

hill to the north while some of Colonel Brush's militia
from Bennington and Colonel Herrick with his
Vermont lancers were to take the southern side.
Stark kept his body of men marching around the
crest of the hill to divert the attention of the enemy
from what was going on behind and on either
side of them. On the 15th & now 16th Aug. Baum kept
his men busy strengthening his fortification.

Brymen, in the meantime, was struggling
along, up hill & down, over muddy roads in the
heavy rain. At night he encamped about 50 mi
northwest of Bennington. The next day his horses
were weak from lack of food and over-exertion.

Aug 16, 1777

3 PM

Bennington

The Americans now encircling Baum through woods and undergrowth, had been instructed to mount a joint attack. When Herick's men heard firing in the north they rushed into the fray. It was 3 o'clock when Stark heard the sounds of battle & brandishing his sword, Stark with his men completed the circle.

An hour and a half later the battle was over. A few of Baum's men escaped, many were taken.

many were then pushed and all around him, as he
sank to the earth mortally wounded, were his dead
and dying:

Aug 16, 1777 5 PM. Bennington

Resounding echoes from Breyman's Cannon (reinforcing Baum) come up the valley. This was completely unexpected. Stark's men were scattered, but they were soon consolidated again to face this new threat. Breyman advanced with 2 Cannons in front to clear the way. Stark's men received conflicting orders.

The timely addition of Seth Warner's fresh regiment turned the tide and Breyman was soon routed. One of the

that Breyman used, he left. This is now known
as the "Molly Stark Cannon" and is on display at
the public library in New Boston. This Cannon
was cast in a French foundry near Paris
in 1747. New Boston has hidden the Cannon so
Soffstrom people will not move the Cannon.
The English captured it from the French, in the
French & Indian Wars, and now in the
Battle of Bennington Stark's men captured it
from the British.

The Continental Congress, with John Hancock
as President, commissioned Stark a Brigadier-General
as reward for his services at Bennington.

Oct 17, 1777

American victory at
Saratoga, N. Y.

Dec 1777 - June 1778

Continental Army survived
the winter at Valley Forge.

Sept 11, 1777

Battle of BRANDY WINE

Between 18,000 British under General Howe and 11,000 Americans under General Washington. The Americans were severely wounded in the battle. Howe occupied Philadelphia (Sep 26, 1777), and the Continental Congress adjourned first to Lancaster, then to York.

1777
1726-1783

1912 Dates J-BK

WILLIAM ALEXANDER

An American Major General, known
as "Red Stirling" because he claimed
to be the rightful heir to the title.
He was a staunch patriot
during the WAR of INDEPENDENCE.
He fought in many battles.

1912 Dates J-BK

Aug. 16, 1777

BENNINGTON

In attempting to carry out his plan to get control of the Hudson R., Burgoyne encamped at Ft. Edward after the victory of Crown Point. His army was in great need of horses and supplies. The Americans had collected at Bennington (a little village in Vermont) several hundred horses besides food supplies and ammunition. With the double purpose of winning over

the many TORIES there & supplying his Army,
Burgoyne sent 1,200 HESSIANS to Bennington
where nearly all were killed or captured
by the militia under Colonel John Stark.

Oct. 7, 1777

(1722-1792)

JOHN BURGoyNE

English General in the War of Independence.
Served 1775-1776 in America. Returned to
America in 1777.

July 6, 1777 Captured TICONDEROGA

Aug 16, 1777 - Almost annihilated at Brimington
by Stark

Sept 19, 1777 - Defeated by General Gates
at Skutumpah

Oct 7, 1777 - Decisively defeated by

Crates at Saratoga

Oct 17, 1777: surrendered to Gates

Oct. 6, 1777

1912 Dates J-BK

FORT MONTGOMERY

On Hudson R., near West Point
was captured by British during
Revolutionary War